

By: Collier, Cortez

H.B. No. 2620

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of a task force on domestic violence.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Chapter 32, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Subchapter C to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER C. TASK FORCE ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Sec. 32.061. DEFINITION. In this subchapter, "task force" means the task force on domestic violence.

Sec. 32.062. ESTABLISHMENT; PRESIDING OFFICER. (a) The task force is composed of 25 members appointed by the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission as follows:

(1) four representatives of family violence centers, as defined by Section 51.002, Human Resources Code, from different geographic regions in this state, including both rural and urban areas;

(2) one representative of a statewide family violence advocacy organization;

(3) one representative of a statewide association of obstetricians and gynecologists;

(4) two representatives of the family and community health programs in the Department of State Health Services;

(5) one representative of a statewide sexual assault advocacy organization;

- 1           (6) one representative of the Health and Human  
2 Services Commission Texas Home Visiting Program;
- 3           (7) one representative of a statewide association of  
4 midwifery;
- 5           (8) one representative of a statewide family  
6 physician's association;
- 7           (9) one representative of a statewide nursing  
8 association;
- 9           (10) one representative of a statewide hospital  
10 association;
- 11           (11) one representative of a statewide pediatric  
12 medical association;
- 13           (12) one representative of a statewide medical  
14 association;
- 15           (13) one representative of The University of Texas  
16 School of Social Work Institute on Domestic Violence and Sexual  
17 Assault;
- 18           (14) one representative of The University of Texas  
19 School of Law Domestic Violence Clinic;
- 20           (15) one representative of the governor's EMS and  
21 Trauma Advisory Council;
- 22           (16) one representative of a Department of Family and  
23 Protective Services prevention and early intervention program;
- 24           (17) one representative of a statewide osteopathic  
25 medical association;
- 26           (18) one representative of a statewide association of  
27 community health centers;

1           (19) one representative of the Family Initiatives  
2 section of the child support division of the office of the attorney  
3 general;

4           (20) one representative from a medical school or a  
5 teaching hospital in the state who is either an attending physician  
6 of the hospital or a faculty member of the medical school; and

7           (21) one representative of the Health and Human  
8 Services Commission's Family Violence Program.

9           (b) The executive commissioner of the Health and Human  
10 Services Commission shall appoint a task force member to serve as  
11 presiding officer of the task force.

12           Sec. 32.063. DUTIES OF TASK FORCE. The task force shall  
13 meet at the call of the presiding officer to:

14           (1) examine the impact of domestic violence on  
15 maternal and infant mortality, the health of mothers, and the  
16 health and development of fetuses, infants, and children;

17           (2) identify the health care services available to  
18 children age two and younger and mothers and explore opportunities  
19 for improving the ability of those services to address domestic  
20 violence;

21           (3) identify methods to effectively include domestic  
22 violence information and support in educational standards for  
23 educators and protocols for health care providers; and

24           (4) investigate and make recommendations relating to  
25 the coordination of health care services for children age two and  
26 younger and pregnant and postpartum women who are victims of  
27 domestic violence, including recommendations for improving early

1 screening and detection and public awareness efforts.

2 Sec. 32.064. REPORT. Not later than September 1, 2015, the  
3 task force shall submit a report to the governor, the lieutenant  
4 governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, the  
5 presiding officers of the standing committees of the legislature  
6 having primary jurisdiction over health and human services, the  
7 executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission,  
8 and the commissioner of state health services containing:

9 (1) the findings and legislative, policy, and research  
10 recommendations of the task force; and

11 (2) a description of the activities of the task force.

12 Sec. 32.065. EXPIRATION. The task force is abolished and  
13 this subchapter expires January 1, 2016.

14 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
15 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
16 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
17 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
18 Act takes effect September 1, 2013.